



HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC.

VOLUME I NO. 1 SEPTEMBER 1981

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Soon my term of office as the first President of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey will be drawing to a close. In this our first year, it has been my goal as President as well as that of our Board of Trustees, to establish the basis for a second working organization. I feel the groundwork has been laid and the form of the structure called the HBA will depend on the imagination, commitment and plain hard work of its members.

The path of public service that we have chosen is exemplary of the finest traditions of our profession. I am convinced we have an important role to play in the progressive development of the hispanic community. Because of our training and our bilingualism, we are in a unique position to assist our community in attaining its goal of equitable participation in this State's social, political and economic life. Additionally, unlike

so many other worthy organizations providing leadership in the hispanic community, the HBA is an independent, member supported, organization. Thus, it need not ever fear the specter of cyclical state and federal budget cuts.

Our responsibility is twofold. It is clear that we must speak out on behalf of our community on such issues as affirmative action, adequate housing and bilingual education. Yet, it is also clear that we have a responsibility to our profession. Our responsibility in this regard lies in continually seeking improvement of our own skills as lawyers and in seeking active participation in every phase of the delivery of services in the legal system, from representation in the judiciary to representation in our county and state bar associations.

The only block to our success is our own inaction. Let's get on with the task at hand.

Margarita Echevarria  
President

### HBA's EDITORIAL STAFF

The newsletter staff welcomes any articles of interest and/or letters of opinion concerning legal issues affecting the Hispanic Community.

## COMMITTEES

During the first official meeting of HBA the following committees were formed;

Community Affairs-Juan Hernandez, chairperson.

Governmental & Judicial Post- Federico Velez, chairperson.

Membership-Jose A. Chiclana, chairperson.

Publications-Doris Lamour, chairperson.

Education- Ignacio Perez, chairperson.

THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
by Ignacio Perez

The Education Committee seeks to attract those HBA members interested in the broad field of education. Among the possible areas of involvement are the following: (1) law schools: affirmative action in admissions and employment; (2) equal educational opportunity in primary, secondary, and higher education; (3) bilingual education; (4) continuing legal education. The Education Committee's jurisdiction thus appears to be broad. It is therefore imperative for those interested in New Jersey Statutes members to meet soon in order to prioritize our work and develop a one-year Plan of Action, with short and long-term goals, division of work, program development, etc. For instance, one particular work-plan should focus on law schools, and we should begin to establish links with New Jersey's three law schools, (admissions, deans, Latino organizations). Another area in which we can be of great help is in the development of a Program of Continuing Legal Education,

i.e., lectures, demonstrations, workshops, seminars, etc.

The Education Committee is currently being chaired by Ignacio Perez, PRLDEF, 95 Madison Avenue, Suite 1304, New York, New York 10016. He can be reached at work: (212) 532-8470.

#### NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON SEX DISCRIMINATION IN THE STATUTES

by Doris C. Lamourt

The need to eradicate sex-discrimination in New Jersey Statutes and case law was given official recognition in July 1978 when Governor Byrne signed into law legislation creating the Commission on Sex-Discrimination in the Statutes. The Commission is empowered to conduct a thorough review of the statutes containing sex-based classification and to propose comprehensive modernization of those statutes.

In October 1979, the Commission issued its report on, "Sex Discrimination In Employment Statutes", which was signed into law-ten months later.

In June 1981, the Commission issued its report on, "Sex Discrimination in Marriage and Family Law". Four specific bills introduced by the Commission for legislative approval were: (1) Temporary Alimony, S.B. 1020; (2) Joint Custody, A.B. 407, 1471; (3) Income Assignment, S.B. 1508; (4) Uniform Parentage Act, S.B. 3047.

The life of the Commission has been extended by the legislature until January 1984. Research will be conducted in the areas of insurance and pensions, education and criminal law.

#### HBA NOTES

Editor- Doris Lamourt

Assoc. Editors-  
Jesus Collazo  
Myriam Rivera  
Nestor F. Guzman

HISPANIC BAR ASSOC. OF NEW JERSEY, INC.  
P.O. BOX 756  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Address all inquiries to the above mailbox.

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Margarita Echevarria, President

Mathias E. Rodriguez  
Federico Velez  
Richardo R. Esquivel- Treasurer  
Grisselle Camacho-Pagan  
Nestor Guzman  
Joseph Rodriguez  
Severiano Lisboa III  
Hector DeSoto- Vice-President  
Marta Figueroa- Secretary

HISPANIC ATTORNEYS OF NEW JERSEY  
WE URGE YOU TO JOIN HBA.

WE NEED YOU!



## NELSON A. DIAZ

by Jesus Collazo

Nelson A. Diaz, has been appointed Common Pleas Judge in the City of Philadelphia by Governor Thornburgh to serve the remaining time in a vacancy which will end this year. Originally from Spanish Harlem, Mr. Diaz graduated from Temple University School of Law in 1972.

Among his other accomplishments was the creation of the Spanish Merchants Association in Philadelphia, and the recipient of a White House Fellowship in which he served under the Carter Administration. The news of his appointment is of great importance to the Hispanic Community in light of the fact that he will be the first hispanic judge in the state of Pennsylvania.

After winning the Democratic nomination, Mr. Diaz will be running for the new term this November. A Common Pleas term last ten years. Let's all wish him luck in the upcoming election.

### 12 DA

#### **\*\*CONVENCION BORICUA**

Meadowlands Hilton

Octubre 9 & 10

Secaucus, New Jersey

Tema: "Nuestro Esfuerzo  
Depende de Ti: ¡Unete!"

Para mas informacion llame al (609) 989-8888.  
Registration fee: \$ 7.00  
N.J. residents 18 years & older.

## EMPLOYMENT

On June 3, 1981, Howard H. Kestin, Director and Chief Administrative Law Judge, notified our office concerning Administrative Law Judge vacancies and the standard used in the selection process. The following are some of the basic requirements: Substantial experience in the practice of law or the administrative process is essential. Five to seven years of such background is regarded as a basic standard. Salaries begin at a range from the low \$30's to the mid \$40's depending upon background, experience, credentials, present earnings, and other relevant factors. Appointments are made by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for a five year term. In addition, the administrative law judge is a full-time governmental position. Consequently, the administrative law judge will not be permitted to engage in private practice. Nor will the administrative judge be permitted to participate in political activity, fund raising or other involvement which might give rise to a potential conflict of interest problem.

All requests for further information should be addressed to: Howard H. Kestin, Director and Chief, Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Law,  
CN 049

88 East State Street  
Trenton, New Jersey  
08625

## CONGRATULATIONS ! JULIO FUENTES

Mr. Julio Fuentes has been appointed to the full time position as Municipal Court Judge in Essex County Newark. We wish him the best of luck in all of his endeavors.

## ESSEX COUNTY NEWS\*\*\*\*

### The Young Lawyers

Section of the Essex County Bar Association will expand its Community Dispute Resolution Project to a county-wide operation beginning this fall. The program, which is presently operating in Bloomfield and Montclair, is a mediation program staffed by volunteer attorneys who seek to resolve municipal court disputes outside of the court system.

Due to the early success of the program in the two initial communities, the program will expand county-wide and is looking for attorneys willing to volunteer a few hours per month to serve as mediators. A one half day training session in mediation techniques, including role-playing and videotape review will be provided free of charge.

Anyone interested should contact the Project Director Michael L. Prigoff, at (201) 622-7700.

We urge all members to partake of this worthwhile experience and contribute a few hours of their time and expertise.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER 19 (Saturday)

#### **\*\* HBA GENERAL MEETING- ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS !!!**

All members should make a good faith effort to attend. location: Seton Hall Law School-Newark  
Further notice will be sent by mail.

### SEPTEMBER 26 (Saturday)

Puerto Rican Health Organization of New Jersey, Inc., will hold its second annual conference at:

College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey  
Rutgers Medical School  
Piscataway, New Jersey  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

This year a workshop on "Health Practice and Malpractice", will be conducted

by Joseph Rodriguez, Esq. and Rene Martin Oliveras, Esq. with Ignacio Perez, Esq. as workshop moderator.

For further information contact: Mariano Vega Jr. (201) 456-4855, 56 or Efrain Cosme (201) 456-4868.

### SEPTEMBER 26 (Saturday)

New Jersey Women Lawyers' Conference, will take place at Douglas Campus, New Brunswick, N.J. Registration fee: \$17.50.

For further information write: N.J. Women Lawyers' Conference  
Room 413  
50 East Palisades Ave.  
Englewood, N.J. 07631

### OCTOBER 21 (Wednesday)

#### **\*\*\*TRIAL SKILL SEMINAR**

HBA is pleased to announce that Joseph Rodriguez, Esq., will conduct a trial skill seminar at:

Seton Hall Law School  
Moot Court Room  
Raymond Blvd.  
Newark, New Jersey  
6:30 p.m. (sharp !)

A nominal registration fee will be charged at the door. No pre-registration required.

For further information contact: Ignacio Perez, Esq.  
(212) 532-8470 (Bus)

### NOVEMBER 14 (Saturday)

#### **\*\*HBA Scholarship Dinner-Dance, honoring Joseph Rodriguez, Esq.**

Location:  
Ramada Inn  
Route 18  
East Brunswick, N.J.  
7:30 p.m.

**HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC.**  
Applications for membership may be obtained by writing to: Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey, Inc.  
P.O. Box 756, Newark, New Jersey 07102

Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey, Inc.  
P.O. Box 756  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

### ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!

Your full cooperation is needed in order to make this event a success

More information on this event will be forthcoming.